

Veterans and Human Services Levy King County



Why Are We Here?



- **Discuss** Veterans and Human Services Levy progress
- **Share** how your levy dollars are being spent
- **Listen** to your feedback on the programs
- **Learn** what the unmet needs are in your community

The Levy Came From Grass Roots Efforts Of Groups And Individuals



- Leadership from mayors of regional cities – Auburn & Enumclaw
- Recognized needs of veterans, families and others in the community
- 58% of voters passed Levy in 2005; provides funding from 2006-2011
- Funding split equally between veterans and human services \$13.3 million/year
- About \$20/yr for \$400,000 home

Levy Is Responding To Need



Veterans Issues

- Soldiers may return with issues like post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or traumatic brain disorder (TBI), impacting their work and family lives
- 30% of all homeless single adults are veterans
- Families, both active duty, Guard/Reserves struggle to cope with multiple deployments & other issues
- Vets in North KC -11,579, South - 62,694
- East - 28,359, Seattle - 40,929

Levy Is Responding To Need



Human Services Issues

- Lack of health care forces people into expensive emergency systems
- Families feeling the strain of the recession may face homelessness
- Mental illness often results in unnecessary but very expensive cycle of jail and hospitals
- Hopelessness and despair in tough economic times impact living stability

Careful Planning and Oversight

- KC Council required a detailed implementation plan
- Required two citizen oversight boards
- Many stakeholders contributed



Right and smart thing to do



- Levy activities focus on serving veterans and others in need throughout King County
 - the right thing to do.
- The services also prevent people from falling into much more expensive situations
 - the smart thing to do
- Levy helps plug gaps in funding unseen in 2005

How?

- Broad recommendations grouped into five strategies:
 - Enhancing Services and Access for veterans
 - Ending homelessness through outreach, prevention, permanent supportive housing and employment
 - Increasing access to behavioral health services
 - Strengthening families at risk
 - Evaluating results to make sure the money is invested wisely

Investments Go To The Right Providers And Are Carefully Monitored

- Boards reviewed plans to invest funds
- Limited funding to expand a few county-operated programs
- Most levy funding disbursed to community based agencies with proven successful programs
- Board members reviewed applications to identify the most qualified providers

Strategies Are Important for Clients and All of Us

- Levy's investment strategies are important to clients:
 - Increases numbers being served & expands services throughout the county (over 100 service locations)
 - Creates stability in peoples lives and reduces homelessness
 - Increases self-sufficiency & reduces reliance on community services

We Are Creating Success

- 28,000 individuals served throughout King County in 2009
- 208 housing units added 2009 with 363 more projected in 2010
- 8253 clients assessed for mental health services
- First time, low-income mothers enrolled in the Nurse Family Partnership with 90% having positive birth outcome
- 444 vets and families receive PTSD counseling in 2009 with 95% success rate (improving, stabilizing family relationships)
- Veterans Incarcerated Program saved \$2.4 million in four years in early release days for incarcerated veterans
- Levy dollars used to leverage other funding

We Will Continue To Listen As We Go Forward

- We will continue to meet with community members
- We want to know:
 - What is needed in your community?
 - Feedback on levy funded services people have received

You Can Help



- Contact your elected officials in support of the Veterans and Human Services Levy
- Commit your community to providing support for veterans and others in need.
- Resources:
 - Web: www.kingcounty.gov/DCHS/Levy
 - Contacts: Marcy.Kubbs@kingcounty.gov
206-263-9102